

WE CLAIM AS OUR INVENTION:

1. A switching device for parallel connection of a number of subscriber terminal devices, said switching device comprising:

an insert unit for providing a number of subscriber interfaces each to one of said subscriber terminal devices; and

a control unit having:

a central control unit for controlling central switching events in said switching device; and

a peripheral control unit for controlling linking of said number of subscriber interfaces to said subscriber terminal devices, said peripheral control unit having:

an interface driver for controlling at least two of said subscriber interfaces, said interface driver having:

a principal subscriber control for controlling a principal subscriber terminal device;

at least one subsidiary subscriber control for controlling at least one subsidiary subscriber terminal device;

a central driver control for central controlling of administration events in said interface driver;

a first connection device for physically connecting said principal subscriber control and said at least one subsidiary subscriber control; and

a second connection device for logically connecting said principal subscriber control to said at least one subsidiary subscriber control.

2. The switching device according to claim 1,
wherein said principal subscriber control comprises:
a first line process unit for linking to said central control unit;
a first connection process unit for controlling a connection setup
for a pertaining subscriber terminal device;
a first terminal device process unit for generating logical
messages for controlling a pertaining subscriber terminal
device; and
a first key converter process unit for converting said logical
messages into functional messages for direct control of a
pertaining subscriber terminal device; and

wherein said subsidiary subscriber control comprises:
a second line process unit for linking to said central control unit;
a second connection process unit for controlling a connection
setup for a pertaining subscriber terminal device;
a second terminal device process unit for generating logical
messages for controlling a pertaining subscriber terminal
device; and
a second key converter process unit for converting said logical
messages into functional messages for direct control of a
pertaining subscriber terminal device.

3. The switching device according to claim 2, wherein said first
connection device comprises an internal connection process unit for physically
connecting said first connection process unit to said second connection process
unit.

4. The switching device according to claim 2, wherein said second connection device comprises a message interface for logically connecting said first terminal device process unit to said second terminal device process unit.

5. The switching device according to claim 1, wherein said subscriber terminal devices are connected in parallel to said switching device and comprise at least one digital wire-bound subscriber terminal device and a cordless subscriber terminal device; and wherein said switching device represents a private branch exchange.

6. A method for connecting a number of subscriber terminal devices in parallel, said method comprising the steps of:

establishing a physical connection of said subscriber terminal devices to be connected in parallel; and

establishing a logical connection of said subscriber terminal devices to be connected in parallel.

7. The method according to claim 6, wherein said logical connection is established by:

acquiring a complex telecommunication performance feature as a functional message;

converting said acquired, functional message into a logical message;

acquiring a parallel connection configuration; and

transmitting said logical message to a terminal equipment process unit connected in parallel.

8. The method according to claim 7, wherein said logical connection is further realized by:

interpreting said logical message as either a local or an external telecommunications performance feature;

transmitting said logical message to either an internal or an external performance feature implementation unit, dependent on said interpretation of said logical message; and

implementing said telecommunications performance feature dependent on said transmitted logical message.

9. The method according to claim 6, wherein said establishment of said physical connection and said connection of said subscriber terminal devices to be connected in parallel is hierarchically ordered.